

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Official Action dated May 6, 2003, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 12 and 13 are allowed and that Claims 3, 4 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 1 and 4 through 17 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 12 and 15 being independent. Claim 3 is cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 4, 5, 9, 12 and 13 have been amended to attend to formal matters, without affecting their scope.

Claims 14 through 17 are newly added. Support for Claim 14 can be found at least at page 16, line 23 to page 17, line 4 of the clean copy of the substitute specification, and in Figure 1. Support for Claims 15 through 17 can be found in the clean copy of the substitute specification at least at page 17, line 4 to page 18, line 4. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,149) in view of Hamada, et al. (JP 1-193885). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe, et al. in view of Hamada, et al., and further in view of Hasegawa (JP 10-340012).

The rejections are respectfully traversed at least because Claim 3, which was indicated in the Official Action as containing allowable subject matter, has now been incorporated into Claim 1.

Newly added, dependent Claim 14 is believed to be allowable because it depends from allowed Claim 12.

Newly added, independent Claim 15 is also believed to be allowable. Claim 15 recites, among other things, a driving motor for driving an image bearing member and an elastic roller and speed setting means for setting a driving speed of the driving motor in accordance with a kind of recording material. Claim 15 also recites that *a magnification of an image written on the image bearing member by writing means* varies in a moving direction of the image bearing member according to the driving speed of the driving motor.

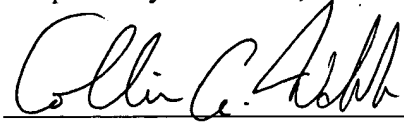
By the virtue of the present invention, a variation of an image magnification on a recording material is suppressed by means of an image expansion at a transferring part, in spite of the type of recording material.

In addition to the independent claims, Applicant also submits that each of the dependent claims is allowable for the same reasons the independent claims are allowable from which they depend and for the additional features each dependent claim recites. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each of the rejected dependent claims on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Collin A. Webb", written over a horizontal line.

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